

## Multiple Agencies “Chip” in at 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual High Country Estates Chipper Day

On June 12, 2012, the West Desert, BLM teamed up for the third annual “Chipper Day” with local residents and interagency cooperators to reduce hazardous fuels at Hi-Country Estates Phase 1.



Figure 1. BLM employees feed chipper while resident uses truck to collect chips for mulch.

Recent wildfires that have threatened and impacted Utah’s rural communities are fresh in resident’s memories, adding to the importance of mitigating the hazardous fuels around homes. At least two wildfires have threatened Hi-Country Estates so far this year, including the Rose Crest Fire that burned four homes in the adjacent Rose Canyon area. Participating agencies included the BLM, Salt Lake County’s Unified Fire Authority, and the Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands. Community participation was at an all-time high for this year’s event. It took a total of three chippers and approximately 25 individuals to complete the project in one day. Many of the chips will be used as mulch for participating resident’s landscaping and on area horse trails. “Overall, this (Chipper Days) was a huge success and we look forward to future chipping events with communities”, said Teresa Rigby, BLM West



Figure 2. Local tree Service, “7 Trees,” was contracted by Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands to help with chipping efforts.

Desert District Prevention/Mitigation Coordinator. Since 2004, the BLM has treated over 900 acres of land adjacent to Hi-Country Estates Phase 1. The treatments main objective is to minimize fire potential and intensity near communities by reducing the amount of flammable material in the surrounding areas. Treatment types include mechanical shredding (Bull Hogging), chainsaw slashing/hand piling, and prescribed fire.

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